

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 /090 W

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R 111128Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6381

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 05155

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PEPR, IS, JO, XF

SUBJECT: UNILATERAL IMPLEMENTATION OF BEGIN PLAN

REF: A. AMMAN 5086 (NOTAL), B. TEL AVIV 7189 (NOTAL)

1. SUBSEQUENT TO CONVERSATIONS REFTEL, POLOFF DISCUSSED ISRAELI WEST BANK ACTIONS WITH MUSTAPHA JABER, POLITICAL ADVISOR TO MINISTRY OF INFORMATION (MINISTER OF INFORMATION ALSO HAS GOJ RESPONSIBILITY FOR WEST BANK AFFAIRS). JABER, WHO HAD NO DOUBTS ISRAEL IMPLEMENTING BEGIN PLAN IN WEST BANK, SAID THAT ISRAELI APPOINTMENTS LIKE THAT DESCRIBED REFTEL POSED DIFFICULT PROBLEMS FOR GOJ AND IT HAD NOT YET DECIDED ON WHAT IT SHOULD ADVISE PROSPECTIVE APPOINTEES OF ISRAELIS.

2. JABER SAID NATURAL REACTION WOULD BE TO ADVISE ANYONE
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BEING SELECTED BY ISRAELIS FOR POSITION WHICH ENCROACHES ON PRE-1967 JORDANIAN STRUCTURE TO REFUSE; HOWEVER, IT WAS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT APPOINTEES COULD BE OF GREATER USE TO WEST BANKERS (COMMENT: AND PRESUMABLY TO GOJ) BY TAKING JOBS OFFERED, EVEN IF ISRAELIS RETAINED ALL REAL AUTHORITY OF GIVEN POSITION.

3. JABER ADDED THAT GOJ WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE ITS POSITION WITH SOME CARE SINCE ISSUE WAS ONE OF INTEREST TO ALL ARABS, AND GOJ COULD FORESEE CRITICISM WHATEVER IT DID. HE SAID HE BELIEVED GOJ WOULD SEEK SOME MIDDLE GROUND "AS USUAL". AS AN ILLUSTRATION OF PROBLEM, JABER SAID HE HAD HAD DIFFICULT CONVERSATION ON SUBJECT WITH KUWAITI AMBASSADOR, WHO JABER SAID INITIALLY INSISTED GOJ SHOULD TELL WEST BANKERS TO REFUSE ISRAELI APPOINTMENTS AS STRONGLY AS POSSIBLE, BUT SUBSEQUENTLY GRANTED THERE COULD BE SOME UTILITY IN ACCEPTANCE.

4. COMMENT: WHETHER SPECULATION ON UNILATERAL IMPLEMENTATION IS WITHOUT FOUNDATION, AS ASSERTED BY GENERAL ORLY (REF B) OR NOT, WORKING LEVEL JORDANIANS BECOMING CONVINCED ISRAELIS ARE IMPLEMENTING PLAN, AND THIS VIEW LIKELY TO BECOME GENERAL AS GOJ CONSULTS WITH OTHERS ON ITS RESPONSE TO APPARENT PATTERN OF ISRAELI ACTIONS. JABER ASKED POLOFF WHAT U.S. POSITION WAS ON UNILATERAL IMPLEMENTATION OF BEGIN PLAN AND WE MAY WELL RECEIVE PRESSURES TO EXPRESS U.S. ATTITUDE TO ISRAELI CHANGES ON WEST BANK.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW AT LEAST IN LEGAL TERMS WHETHER WE REGARD THE ISRAELI STEPS AS PERMISSABLE UNDER THE FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION DEALING WITH OCCUPIED AREAS, AND, IN ADDITION, WHAT POSITION, IF CONFIDENTIAL

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ANY, WE HAVE TAKEN IN THE PAST ON SUCH STEPS BY ISRAEL OR OTHER OCCUPYING POWERS IN ANALOGOUS CASES. FINALLY, WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE IN THE NEAR CERTAINTY WE WILL RECEIVE HIGHER LEVEL INQUIRIES HERE ON THIS ISSUE.PICKERING

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